

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending, wherein claim 6 has been amended and claims 21-41 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented herein below.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action (“Action”), the Examiner asserts that newly submitted claims 21-41 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. In order to expedite prosecution of the instant application, Applicants hereby cancel claims 21-41, thereby addressing the Examiner’s concerns.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite because “said upper plate” is without proper antecedent basis. Claim 6 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, thereby addressing the Examiner’s concerns. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-10.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, the Examiner asserts that the reissue oath/declaration filed with the application is defective because 37 CFR 1.63 requires that the oath or declaration identify the foreign application for patent on which priority is claimed unless supplied in an application data sheet. Applicants submit herewith an application data sheet identifying the foreign application for patent on which priority is claimed, thereby addressing the Examiner’s concerns.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.


If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37

C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


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